

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed June 13, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 9-11 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 9-11 and 13 in later filed continuing applications. Claims 1-8 and 14-18 remain pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter identified in the Office Action. Editorial revisions have been made to claim 5 to address formal matters. No new matter has been added. These amendments are made to place the application into condition for allowance.

Reexamination and allowance of claims 1-8 and 14-18 are respectfully requested.

**Allowed Claims**

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 14-18.

The Office Action indicates on page 5 that the cited prior art, taken individually or in combination or in combination with the prior art in general, fails to disclose or render obvious "a closure cap formed with an opening for latching onto a conductor cable, the opening in the form of a slot." This feature has been added to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is allowable. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

**Claims Rejections**

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,206,580 to Nagaoka et al. (hereinafter "Nagaoka"). Claims 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. With respect to claims 1-4, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 has been amended to add the feature "wherein the housing parts include a closure cap, wherein at least the closure cap is formed with an opening for latching onto the conductor cable, and the opening is in the form of a slot," which was indicated as allowable subject matter on page 5 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, Nagaoka does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-4 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 5, 6, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,663,292 to Shirakawa (hereinafter "Shirakawa"). Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. With respect to claims 5 and 6, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 5 and 6 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of Shirakawa as applied to claim 5, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,217,230 to Matsushita. Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 7 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,432 to Nakajima et al. (hereinafter "Nakajima"). Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 8 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Reply to Office Action of June 13, 2008

**Conclusion**

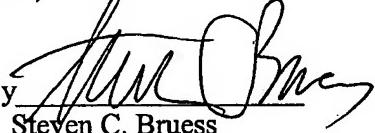
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P. C  
P. O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: September 9, 2008

By

  
Steven C. Bruess  
Reg. No. 34,130  
SCB/JKS:rlk

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE